



BOARD OF HEALTH

The Thurston County Board of Health has responsibility and authority for public health in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Minutes for February 11, 2020

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tye Menser called the meeting to order.

In Attendance:

Tye Menser, Chair; John Hutchings, Vice Chair; Gary Edwards, Commissioner; Ramiro Chavez, County Manager; Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve meeting minutes from the January 14, 2020 regular meeting and the January 28, 2020 Special Meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Presentations and Proclamations

Proclamation – Children’s Dental Health Month

Mary Ann O’Garro, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Senior Epidemiologist, introduced the proclamation and spoke on behalf of Children’s Dental Health Month noting Children’s Dental Health has been recognized since 1941. She then introduced Caroline Sedano, Oral Health and Reproductive Maternal and Child Health Program Manager with CHOICE Regional Health Network. Ms. Sedano discussed CHOICE’s Oral Health projects and acknowledged community partnerships, which includes PHSS for their community education programs coordinated by Lesley Price, PHSS Dietician. She then shared successes and challenges; and explained her work with dentists, families and schools to improve people’s quality of life. Ms. O’Garro then introduced Karen Lewis, Senior Program Officer for the Arcora Foundation. Ms. Lewis shared Arcora Foundation’s Mission “to bend the arc of oral health toward equity” and their Vision “that all people enjoy good oral and overall health with no one left behind”. She then spoke on behalf of what the Arcora Foundation does to promote children’s dental health. Ms. Lewis discussed their SmileMobile, which is a dental office on wheels, that provides dental care to children and pregnant women living in rural and underserved communities across the State of Washington who may have difficulty finding a dentist. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Proclamation proclaiming February as Children’s Dental Health Month in Thurston County, in recognition of the importance of the awareness of oral health and urged all residents to recognize the critical importance of how oral health affects overall health. A photo was taken with the Board members and all present in

support of the Proclamation. The Board thanked everyone for their support and acknowledgment of the importance of taking care of our children.

Proclamation – American Heart Health Month

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnership (CEEP) Program, introduced the Proclamation and spoke on the importance of preventing heart disease by living a healthy lifestyle which includes getting adequate physical activity and eating a healthy diet; and not smoking or vaping. He described the PHSS *Living Well Thurston*, a free self-management workshop for people with chronic health conditions and their caregivers. The workshop sessions are 2½ hours long once a week for 6 weeks. For additional information about the workshop, including when the next session will be held, visit the PHSS website at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health or contact Lesley Price at (360) 867-2515. Mr. Hawkins encouraged everyone to wear red in support of Heart Health Month and Women's Health. He then introduced Kurt Harding, Director of the Thurston County Emergency Services Department (EMS). Mr. Harding spoke on the aspect of emergency services response for those that do not eat healthy or exercise and need emergency medical assistance. He expressed the importance of bystanders providing intervention assistance to an individual who has had a heart attack until emergency services arrives to take over. He then shared statistics on the increase of lives saved in 2018 due to bystander intervention. Mr. Harding recommends members of the public take CPR training before it is needed. He then explained that in the event their assistance is needed to first call 911 and then start CPR. He noted CPR training is free of charge through Medic One. For CPR information go to www.thurstoncountywa.gov/ml or call (360) 704-2780. Mr. Harding thanked the Thurston County Sheriff's Department for their partnership in providing AED devices (Automated External Defibrillator) in county patrol cars. At Chair Menser's request, Mr. Hawkins explained, as related to the importance of diet and food, the South Sound Food Network Summit previously scheduled for March 15, 2020 has been postponed until the Fall. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Proclamation proclaiming February as American Heart Health month in Thurston County, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease, and urged all citizens to recognize the critical importance of identifying symptoms, taking preventive measures to live healthfully, and incorporating tools and skills that will increase survival rates and save thousands of lives each year. A photo was taken of the Board Members and all present in support of the Proclamation.

3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - none

4) Health Officer's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- Provided a recruitment status for a new Thurston County Health Officer.
- Provided an update on the interim Health Officers and the conditions each are responsible for:
 - Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County – Environmental Health issues
 - Dr. Kathy Lofy, WA Department of Health – Communicable Diseases
 - Dr. Masa Natrita, Seattle/King County – Tuberculosis
 - Dr. Dan Stein, Mason County – Vital Records and all other administrative issues

- Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) – the World Health Organization (WHO) has named coronavirus COVID-19.
 - This is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts and PHSS are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people;
 - PHSS is working with Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in response to the virus;
 - Thurston County has no confirmed cases;
 - Provided a status of the virus locally, nationally and worldwide;
 - Described COVID-19 symptoms which include fever, cough and difficulty breathing;
 - Noted the steps you can take to prevent the spread of the flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus such as cover your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing; wash hands often with soap and water, if not available use hand sanitizer; avoid contact with people who are sick; stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others; and wipe down surfaces with a sanitizing solution.
 - Noted currently there are no medications or vaccine specifically approved for coronavirus.
 - For additional information contact:
 - Washington State 24 Hotline for information 6am – 10pm: 1-800-525-0127
 - www.CDC.gov
 - www.doh.wa.gov
- Influenza surveillance activities continue with influenza B as the predominate circulating influenza strain in Washington State and Thurston County; there have been 3 influenza deaths in Thurston County this flu season in individuals over the age of 65 with other chronic diseases or conditions; it is not too late to get a flu shot.
- Investigation and Control of Disease staff investigated and followed up on 179 confirmed and suspect cases of various communicable diseases.
- Large Foodborne Illness Outbreak
 - 50-60 people became ill with vomiting and diarrhea about 24 hours after attending a private community event at a church in downtown Olympia.
 - The incident was reported to PHSS about two days after the event was over.
 - Fortunately, symptoms abated, and folks got better within 48 hours.
 - The suspected culprit is Norovirus based on symptoms and recovery time.
 - PHSS Environmental Health (EH) staff followed up to assure the outbreak was over and worked with the sponsoring facility on cleaning and sanitizing procedures. The church chose to hire a cleaning service.

5) Director's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- Nisqually Flood Response – properties effected by the flood that are served by well water are at risk for contamination; for properties where drinking water is served by the City of Lacey the water is not at risk; donated water was delivered to effected homeowners; bacteriological testing of drinking water through the County laboratory cost \$29/per sample; Ms. Slaughter shared potential illness risks and hazards associated with flooding.

- Percival Creek Sewage Line Break - PHSS staff responded to a broken 10-inch sewer line that spilled about 30,000 gallons of sewage in Percival Creek, Capitol Lake and lower Budd Inlet; the City of Olympia sewer line broke during a storm on Friday night February 7, 2020 when a tree fell and destroyed a Percival Creek foot bridge that was used to support the sewer line; a news release went out the public; staff posted warnings signs at Marathon Park, Capitol Lake Park (north basin), Percival Landing and at the West Bay Park; EH staff took water samples at 4 locations the following morning for testing to determine if the water was safe for recreational contact; and test results showed fecal coliform levels at all 4 locations had low bacteria levels and easily met water recreation standards.
- Offut Lake Resort water system - lab results received Friday January 24, 2020 confirmed E. Coli was present in water samples taken from the Offut Lake Resort water system; which is a Group A public water system regulated by DOH that serves a restaurant, convenience store, RV camp and some residences; E. Coli indicates the water may be contaminated by animal waste or sewage; the PHSS lab notified the water system operator and DOH, who issued a boil water notice to water system users and customers; the boil water notice resulted in the temporary closure of the Lady of the Lake restaurant; DOH drinking water staff inspected the system on January 24, 2020 and provided guidance on how to correct the water quality problem; the operator made corrections and disinfected the system over the weekend; the boil water notice will be lifted after water quality improves; PHSS staff worked with the owner to confirm actions needed before the restaurant can reopen; the convenience store for the Offut Lake Resort was able to stay open because they serve pre-packaged food items and do not need the water for food processing.
- The Opioid Response Program has begun offering community-based naloxone trainings that include opioid education and distribution of naloxone rescue kits to community-based organizations.
- Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) Division successfully conducted the 2020 Point-in-Time homeless census count on January 23, 2020; it was a community effort that involved approximately 230 volunteers; the results are expected to be available in March.
- Cold weather shelter season continued in January - one hazardous weather event was declared from January 13th to the 17th; 847 bed nights of shelter were provided with Interfaith Works providing staffing support to increase the capacity of shelter beds at the Salvation Army; Shelter-in-Place activities were also conducted.
- OHHP arranged for a 6 cubic yard dumpster to be placed at the encampment known as the "Jungle" in an effort to manage the solid waste generated at the site and to reduce unauthorized burning of solid waste.
- Response to citizen's concern – Ms. Andrea Schmel addressed the Board at the January 28th Board of Health special meeting expressing her concerns about the potential contamination of drinking water at her property located on South Bay Road which is in close proximity to the "Jungle" homeless encampment; PHSS staff have added additional water testing in this area.
- PHSS Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Team has an emergency response script ready for the February rollout when Poison Control will begin screening all after hour PHSS Duty Officer calls.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

6) Thurston County Family Assistance Center

Stanley Phillips, Senior Victim Advocate with the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office (TCPAO) – Crime Victim Advocacy Network (CVAN), and Erika Katt, Education and Outreach Specialist II with the PHSS Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Team, gave a presentation on the Family Assistance Center (FAC) planning efforts that have been taking place over the past year. Mr. Stanley discussed the June 17, 2018 Walmart shooting incident and the support of the 13 direct victims and 88 secondary victims. He explained discussions between Tumwater Police and TCPAO CVAN resulted in the determination there was a need for a Family Assistance Center. The TCPAO CVAN in collaboration with partnering agencies held a Victim Resource Fair on Wednesday, June 20, 2019. Mr. Phillips then discussed the identified after-action needs, such as: Mental Health/Post Trauma Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Transportation/ Fuel/Bus Passes, Emergency Financial Assistance, and Crime Scene Clean up and Decontamination. Mr. Stanley then discussed a \$45,000 award granted by the State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy which funds a half-time position in the CVAN. He then acknowledged the partnering agencies that hosted a table or had agency staff on-site at the Victim Resource Fair. Erika Katt addressed the Board and discussed planning of the Family Assistance Center which started in October 2018, with several meetings; a tabletop exercise in June 2019; and continues with community partner outreach. She then explained the purpose of the plan is to guide Thurston County in family assistance responses related to the consequences of a mass fatality or mass casualty incident resulting from natural or manmade disasters which may include all hazards or intentional violent criminal acts that result in physical, emotional, or psychological harm to a significantly large number of people. Ms. Katt then explained the plan scope which is applicable for all incidents which require coordinated and centralized information for families and friends accessing incident information and locating family members. She then provided information on a Reunification and Notification Center and a Family Assistance Center, which could be located together or be stand-alone facilities. Both facilities would be established during or directly following an incident to provide a safe and secure facility away from the incident site, for families to gather information and notification, or to be reunited with their family members. Ms. Katt explained the primary services would be security, behavior health, spiritual care, reunification, medical/first aid, translation and interpretation services and childcare, a key component. She then provided additional information about a Family Assistance Center which provides a safe and secure physical or virtual facility for family members, and those affected, to receive the necessary resources for recovery, noting the duration and resources provided at a FAC may depend on the needs of those individuals and/or families affected by the incident. As an example, Ms. Katt used the Las Vegas shootings incident FAC which is still in operation. She discussed secondary services to be provided at a FAC such as animal care, banking, Crime Victim Advocacy, disability information, legal assistance, veterans' affairs, and workers compensation. She then acknowledged the community partners committed to implementation, tabletop exercises, and functionality of the centers. Ms. Katt noted the next steps which include continued planning with community partners; integrate an exercise plan in community exercises; and build community partnership/relationships by working together. The Board members thanked Ms. Katt and Mr. Phillips for the presentation and their work to keep our community prepared.

7) Board of Health Members' reported on health related activities

Commissioner Edwards reported on:

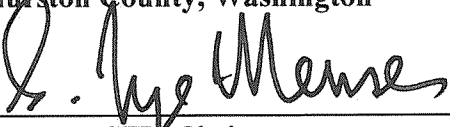
- Attended an event at the Evergreen State College on excessive nitrogen in rivers
- Visited Nisqually River flood area
- Homeless issues
- Questioned who donated water to the Nisqually Flood victims, for which Ms. Slaughter responded Walmart and Costco donated cases of water.
- Nisqually River Council meeting – Biosolids

Chair Menser reported on:

- Opioid Task Force Meeting – mental health diversion
- Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization

8) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



TYNE MENSER, Chair

ATTEST:




Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board



JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair

Date: July 14, 2020



GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

Thurston Community Television (TCTV) - The Board of Health meetings are aired on TCTV each week on Sundays at 3:30 p.m., Mondays at 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m.